

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/826,727

Examiner

Joseph S. Del Sole

Applicant(s)

NESBITT, R. DENNIS

Art Unit

1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response of 7/20/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 8/13/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Michelle Bugbee on August 13, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

The following listing replaces the claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) An improved processing system for forming golf ball preforms comprising high Mooney viscosity polybutadiene, said system comprising:

an internal mixer that compounds a batch of golf ball core stock, the internal mixer having a mixer outlet;

a sheeter that forms sheets of golf ball core stock, the sheeter having a sheeter inlet proximate the mixer outlet and having a sheeter outlet,

wherein the sheeter includes:

an extruder portion and a calendar portion,

the extruder portion receiving the compounded golf ball core stock from the mixer outlet and having at least one screw that feeds the compounded golf ball core stock to the calendar portion,

the calendar portion having a first roller and a second roller that is upwardly displaced from the first roller to define a nip point where the sheets of golf ball core stock are formed from the compounded golf ball core stock; and

preform shaping means for forming golf ball core preforms from the sheets of golf ball core stock,

wherein the improved processing system eliminates the need for a two-roll mill.

Claim 2. (canceled).

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the preform shaping means includes:

a warm-up mill for warming the sheets of golf ball core stock; and

an extruder for forming golf ball core preforms of a desired shape from the warmed sheets of golf ball core stock.

Claim 4. (Original) The system of claim 3, further including a cool down unit for cooling the sheets of golf ball core stock prior to being warmed by the warm-up mill.

Claim 5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the warm-up mill combines the first-mentioned batch of golf ball core stock with a second batch of core stock to form the warmed sheets of golf ball core stock.

Claim 6. (Original) The system of claim 3, further including means for rolling the warmed sheets of golf ball core stock into "pigs" prior to being extruded into the golf ball core preforms.

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Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the extruder portion includes two counter-rotating screws that feed the compounded golf ball core stock to the calendar portion.

Claim 8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further including an extruder that forms golf ball core preforms of a desired shape from the sheets of golf ball core stock.

Claim 9. (Original) The system of claim 8, further including means for rolling the sheets of golf ball core stock into "pigs" prior to being extruded into golf ball core preforms.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) An improved processing system for forming golf ball preforms comprising high Mooney viscosity polybutadiene, said system comprising:

an internal mixer that compounds a batch of golf ball core stock, the internal mixer having a mixer outlet;

a sheeter that forms sheets of golf ball core stock, the sheeter having a sheeter inlet proximate the mixer outlet and having a sheeter outlet,

~~The system of claim 1,~~ wherein the sheeter includes:

an extruder portion and a die head portion,

the extruder portion receiving the compounded golf ball core stock from the mixer outlet and having at least one screw that feeds the compounded golf ball core stock to the die head portion,

the die head portion having at least one die and the compounded golf ball core stock being extruded through the at least one die to form golf ball preforms of a desired shape.

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Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the extruder portion includes two counter-rotating screws that feed the compounded golf ball core stock to the die head portion.

Claims 12 - 22 (canceled).

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach the invention for the reasons discussed in the Office action of 4/30/04. By way of this Examiner's amendment, the two claimed species of the invention are set forth as independent claims.

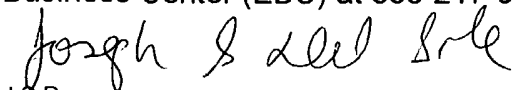
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Del Sole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wanda Walker, can be reached at (571) 272-1151. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for both non-after finals and for after finals.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from the either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on the access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll-free).



J.S.D.
August 13, 2004